THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The Madurai Bench is functional since July 24, 2004, in pursuance to the Presidential Order dated July 6, 2004.

(b) Apart from deputing the sanctioned number of Judges by the High Court, the State Government is required to sanction additional staff and funds for maintaining the court buildings.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Judicial activities

†711. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the judiciary has to do work of the executive today and the judiciary has to issue executive orders besides disposing of the disputes of people; and

(b) if so, when everything is to be done by the courts of law only, then what is the justification for the existence of Ministries, Departments and institutions with their executive powers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The executive and the judiciary are independent bodies functioning within the framework of the constitution.

Non-Casting of votes by Eligible Voters

712. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that eligible voters having Photo Identity Cards could not cast their votes at various centres in the last Lok Sabha and Assembly elections;

(b) if so, Governmertt's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that all eligible voters exercise their franchise of right to vote in the coming elections?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.